facts-that large number of cases are pending in labour courts and there are workers in such a big State like UP where worker have lot of problems, they come to Kanpur and they have to wait for a long time to get justice these course having these factors in mind, will the Ministry think of giving priority at least of opening some courts at places like Gorakhpur or Varanasi so that people from eastern UP should not come all the way to Kanpur? Will he give priority in this case?

SHRI P.A.SANGMA: In fact, as of now, we do not have much of a problem at Kanpur as such because we have enough number of courts. But at other places we do have this problem. As I said, since we are having financial constraints, as of now we are not in a position to consider opening up new courts. In future, as the financial position improves, as I said we have recognised the necessity and we are keeping it in mind.

Industrial Bandh

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*291. SHRI P.M.SAYEED:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a call was given by certain trade unions for industrial bandh on November 29,1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government initiated action to stall the bandh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Some sections of the Central Trade Union Organisations had given a call for industrial strike on November 29,1991. Their main demands, inter alia, were that the Government should reformulate its economic and industrial policies in consultation with the Trade Unions, stop measure of privatisation of public sector units, take steps for early enactment of participation of workers in management bill etc.

(c) and (d). Government have constituted a Special Tripartite Committee with representaion of employers and Central Trade Unions to consider the impact of the New Industrial Policy and the problems of labour and other related matters. A meeting of the labour side of the Committee was specially called on November 17,1991 under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal to discuss the situation arising out of the call for the strike in the context of the new Industrial Policy. In that meeting, the Central Trade Union Organisations were assured that labour would be fully protected in the wake of the new industrial Policy. The Prime Minister had also assured in the Consultative Committee of the Parliament that the new Industrial Policy would not be anti-labour in character and would not result in human distress. In spite of the assurances at the highest level, some sections of the Trade Unions went ahead with the strike, Efforts were also made by the conciliation officers under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to prevent the strike particularly in public utilities. On November 29, 1991 there was only a partial strike in a very few sectors of the industries. The supply of essential commodities and services was maintained in spite of the partial strike. in a few States however, commercial services and transport were affected due to the strike.

SHRI P.M.SAYEED: The impact of the bandh which was organised by the political parties particularly in the State of Bengal and Bihar was only marginal. And it was felt that politiciasation was very much evident in the whole country. The Prime Minister himself has given the assurance that the new industrial policy is not going to hamper the interest of the workers. I just want to know from the hon. Minister, since he is the Chairman of the

Tripartite Committee and has also met the trade union leaders, whether he is going to hasten the process of this labour management Bill and try to get it passed in this session or at least in the Budget session so that this kind of politicking by the politicians could be arrested in future.

SHRI P.A.SANGMA: When the new inudstrial policy was announced, there was some apprehension in the minds of some sections of the workers including trade unions. There is no doubt about it. It is because of this reason that there was delegation of trade union leaders which met the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister on the 17th September. There it was agreed that special Tripartite Committee will be constituted to go into the effects of the new industrial policy. This Committee was, as I said set up at the request of the trade union leaders. This committee kept by the Government. Secondly, on many occasions, even on the floor of this House on 28th June when Prime Minister was replying to the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Industry, he made it categorically clear that the new industrial policy will not lead to victimisation of workers and that it will take care of workers, interest. Therefore, we had tried to impress upon the trade union leaders that there was no need for going on strike as the matter was under discussion. In spite of that, some of the trade union had chosen to go on strike on 29th of November. As very rightly assessed by the hon. Member, this strike has had a marginal effect except in the States of West Bengal and Bihar where it was Government sponsored and partially in Kerala.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Shri Sangmaji, how about the meeting of West Bengal MPs including its Ministers held with you and what was the consensus? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.A.SANGMA: Hon. Membres of West Bengal are very good and they said that in future they will be very good.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: You were also good to assure them, how about it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.A.SANGMA: As far as the second part of the question is concerned, we are very much interested in workers participation in management and a Bill has been introduced by the former Minister of Labour, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji. The Bill is lying before the House. I am afraid that during this current Session of the House, we may not be able to take it up. But, we will certainly try to take it up in the next Session. I am not very sure about it. It is for the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to give priority.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Violations of Minimum Wages Act

*288. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated September 23, 1991 regarding violations of the Minimum Wages Act;

(b) whether the Minimum wages Act is being violated in a number of States;

(c) if so, whether the workers are not